

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166233

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM VEST

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: APER, AODE, UK

SUBJECT:LONDON MODE RECOMMENDATIONS (FAA)

REF: LONDON 15098, LONDON 18798

1. I NOW HAVE THE REPORT OF THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO WHICH I HAD REFERRED YOUR MODE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE FAA. THE GROUP WAS COMPOSED OR REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE, DOT AND OMB. I SOUGHT THEIR ADVICE BECAUSE FAA LONDON HAS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND BECAUSE YOU RECOMMENDED A SHIFTING OF ITS FUNCTIONS TO THE FAA OFFICE IN BRUSSELS.

2. THE ISSUE OF A TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO BRUSSELS SEEMS TO BOIL DOWN TO OVERALL COST EFFECTIVENESS, WHICH FAA IS ACTIVELY STUDYING ON A EUROPE-WIDE BASIS. THE WORKING GROUP HAS CONCLUDED FROM DATA PRESENTED BY
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THE FAA THAT THE WORK NOW DONE BY FAA IN LONDON PROBABLY COULD NOT BE DONE MORE EFFECTIVELY OR WITH LESS TOTAL COST FROM BRUSSELS. THEY HAVE BASED THIS CONCLUSION ON A VARIETY OF CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDING THE GEOGRAPHIC

SPREAD OF THE WORKLOAD (OVER HALF THE LONDON OFFICE'S WORK IS IN THE UK), COMPARATIVE LIVING COSTS, AND

TRAVEL TIME AND COSTS. HOWEVER, REGARD WAS ALSO GIVEN TO THE VALUE OF HAVING AN ON-THE-SCENE CONTACT IN THE UK AS DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF MAJOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT MOVES AHEAD.

3. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS ASSURED ME THAT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STAFFING OF THEIR FAA REGIONAL OFFICE IN BRUSSELS IS UNDERWAY, WITH THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING MANPOWER ECONOMIES OVERALL. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IN VIEW OF THE CASE THAT HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LONDON OPERATION, I AM INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE ALLOW THE FAA TO REMAIN IN LONDON FOR NOW. HOWEVER, BEFORE DOING SO I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE. VANCE

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